at 70 lac tons. However, as per report received from Cane Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra, the sugar production will now be around 81 lac tons. As regards production of sugar in Maharashtra during 2007-08 season, it is too early to make such estimate at this stage.

(c) In view of the estimated higher production of sugar in 2006-07 sugar season, the Government *vide* notification dated 03.01.2007 relaxed ban on export of sugar and allowed export against advance licenses. The Government has further relaxed ban and has allowed export of sugar under OGL *vide* notification dated 23.01.2007 up to the limit approved by the Government. Many merchant exporters/manufacturer exporters have obtained export release orders for export of sugar from Maharashtra.

(d) The Central Government has not fixed any target for export of sugar during 2006-07 season. However, it is estimated that about 15 lac tons would get exported in this season.

Allotment of wheat to Gujarat

1224. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to enhance allotment of wheat to Gujarat;

(b) the reasons for reduction in allotment of wheat to Gujarat and the reasons for non-release of allotted quantity of coarse grains against wheat for May and June; whether Government desires to re-allot the same;

(c) whether Government propose to make available the quantity of bajra and maize which was not released; if so, from which date; and

(d) whether Government propose to adjust the distribution of wheat in lieu of coarse grains?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The allocations of wheat under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been rationalized from June, 2006 for all the States, including Gujarat, on the

basis of each State's average offtake for the last 3 years or the last year's offtake, whichever was lower. A 25% cut on this has been imposed in respect of rice consuming States. No change has, however, been made in the overall entitlements of foodgrains for the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) category, only the *inter se* ratio of rice and wheat has been changed. For the APL category, the State Governments can ask for allocation of rice in lieu of the reduction of wheat allocation.

With improved stock position and with a view to stabilize wheat price in the open market, the Central Government has made an additional allocation of 35000 tonnes of wheat for the Above Poverty Line (APL), category in 7 instalments of 5000 tonnes per month from September, 2006 to March, 2007.

Further, on the request of the State Government of Gujarat, coarse grains have also been allocated for the month of May and June, 2006 in lieu of the corresponding quantity of wheat, details of which are given below.

(in Tonnes)

Commodity	May, 2006			June, 2006		
	AAY	BPL	APL	AAY	BPL	APL
Maize	2807	935	-	2807	935	-
Jowar	1465	488	-	1465	488	-
Bajra	1800	600	-	-	-	-

As per the guidelines, the foodgrains allocated to the State are required to be lifted/released within the validity period, subject to timely deposit of the payment by the State and availability of the foodgrains in the designated godown of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The coarse grains allocated for the month of June, 2006 were released by the FCI, but the State Government of Gujarat made a request for extending the validity period for lifting the coarse grains allocated for the month of May, 2006, in response to which the Central Government requested the State Government to specify the quantity of unlifted coarse grains for which the extension was sought. No response has been received from the State Government, so far.